

- - REMARKS - -

Claims 9-10 were pending in the application. No amendments have been made pursuant to the filing of this response.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 9-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,388,660 to Manser et al. (hereinafter "Manser"). The claim rejections are respectfully traversed.

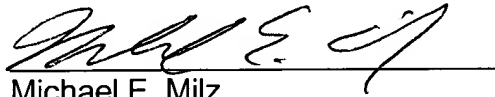
As set forth in the previously submitted Amendment, Independent claim 9 is directed to an input control system comprising an input pad having a coordinate input portion for inputting coordinate data and four switches, each of the switches capable of having an ON state and an OFF state. In addition, claim 9 requires that the four switches each comprise a default operation, the default operation being a left-click operation of a mouse, a right-click operation of a mouse, a scroll-up operation, and a scroll-down operation, respectively. Moreover, the default operation for each of the four switches is changeable to a different operation by setting commands generated in a switch input section driver.

These limitations and features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art. In particular, the prior art does not disclose or suggest an input control system including four switches each having a default operation, wherein the default operation for each of the switches is changeable to a different operation by setting commands generated in a switch input section driver. This is in contrast to the device disclosed by Manser, wherein the operation of each of the switches 20 is changed by sliding a cover (i.e., switches) disposed on a touch pad 16 to the touch pad side, or by sliding the cover to a side apart from the touch pad. It is therefore apparent that the device disclosed by Manser does not permit a new input command to be set for each switch in the manner called for by the claim. In other words, setting or changing the input commands for each switch is performed in the present invention by controlling the switch input driver, whereas Manser only permits the function of the switch to be changed by physically moving the position of the switch cover. In addition, the present invention allows any number of input commands to be selected from the switch input driver for each switch, whereas Manser only allows selection between two predetermined input commands for each switch.

Accordingly, independent claim 9 is not rendered unpatentable by this prior art reference. Claim 10 is dependent on claim 9 and is likewise patentable.

The pending claims are believed to truly distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is now earnestly requested. If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4273.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Milz", written over a horizontal line.

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